

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 19–23 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner and are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The new claims, as presented herein, are not submitted for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these claims are submitted simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled. Claims 1-18 are canceled.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement that claims 11-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, new claims 19-22 correspond to canceled allowable claims 11-14 rewritten in independent form. New claim 23 corresponds to previous claim 15, but should be allowable in dependent form since it depends from allowable independent claim 22 (former claim 14). Claims 12 was objected to for an informality, which has been corrected in new claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant believes claims 19-23 (all of the remaining claims) are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren M. Simon", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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